

AFFAIRS OF THE RAILWAYS.

Consolidation of Benefit Associations.
Special to the Indianapolis Journal.
MATTOON, Ill., May 8.—The Employers' Mutual Benefit Association of the I. & St. L. Railroad Company held a meeting in this city to-night and appointed a committee of three to consummate a consolidation with the Bee-line association, which appointed a similar committee at a recent meeting. The Bee-line has 1,000 members and the I. & St. L. 235. Upon consolidation it is proposed that the paymasters of the two roads pay assessments for employees and deduct the amount from their wages. All I. & St. L. members will be solicited to ratify the action, a majority already having done so.

Personal, Local and State Notes.

The Grand Rapids & Indiana road has been testing the McElroy method of heating trains by steam with good results.
A. Ford, general passenger agent of the Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburgh, is to be in the city to-day on official business.
G. M. Cummings has been appointed general manager of the St. Joseph & Grand Island road, with headquarters at St. Joseph.
The Ohio Falls car-works at Jeffersonville are building a number of first-class passenger coaches for the Louisville Southern road.
President Mackey, of the E. & T. H. and P. D. & E. roads, is enquiring the Bee-line association, which appointed a similar committee at a recent meeting. The Bee-line has 1,000 members and the I. & St. L. 235. Upon consolidation it is proposed that the paymasters of the two roads pay assessments for employees and deduct the amount from their wages. All I. & St. L. members will be solicited to ratify the action, a majority already having done so.

D. J. Mackey, president of the Evansville & Terre Haute road, has ordered the pay of the men in several departments advanced, surprising outsiders, as well as the employees.
H. S. Mount, alternate delegate to the Order of Railway Conductors' annual convention, went to Toronto to represent the Indianapolis division. I. D. Baldwin was unable to go.
Expos No. 611 on the Jeffersonville, Madison & Indianapolis road, on Monday hauled a vestibule train of five cars from Louisville to Indianapolis, 110 miles, in two hours and forty-eight minutes.
L. S. Allen has been appointed Northwestern passenger agent of the Baltimore & Ohio, vice T. H. Dearborn, resigned on account of ill health. H. W. McKewen will look after that company's business at Chicago.

Buffalo papers which are making claims for the Erie road say that R. Shaler, superintendent of the N. Y. P. & O., is to be made general manager of the Erie, and that C. A. Brunn is to succeed him on the N. Y. P. & O.
Pearce & Co., who built the new public buildings in this State, the court-house at Lafayette being of the number, have been awarded the contract to build the extensive shops which the Louisville & Nashville are to erect at Decatur, Ala.

Wabash engine 1006, on Friday last, hauled Superintendent Wade and other officials of the road from Lafayette to Peru, seventy-two miles, in sixty minutes. C. Hamilton was on the foot-board, one of the veteran engineers on the road.
The steamers which the Wabash propose to put on, to run between Toledo and Buffalo, will carry grain and general freight. The details of the arrangements are kept secret. Trouble is looked for in rate matters when they begin operations.

East-bound traffic over Chicago roads showed a decrease again last week. Of the business forwarded the Van Hook line carried 35.1 per cent; the Pennsylvania line, 26.4 per cent. The C. & I. St. L. & C. just now cuts no figure in the business.
The Lafayette car-works commenced delivering cars, this week, on their contract with the Chicago, Burlington & Northern. These cars are models, strongly built, 50,000 pounds capacity, thirty-four feet long, trussed with one and one-half inch rods.

The syndicate controlling the Chicago & Eastern Illinois road and the Chicago & Indiana Coal road have struck a legal snag, and work on the construction of the link which was to connect the two has been suspended pending the action of the Illinois Legislature.
The Lake Shore road has two construction trains at work dumping dirt into a sink hole near Sedan. Twenty years ago the company had a great deal of trouble with this sink hole, but finally got solid ground for their track; but a few days ago it again commenced going down.

The Lake Erie & Western contemplates the substitution of iron for wood in nine spans at four different crossings of streams. The Keystone Bridge Company has the contract for the substitution of iron trusses in the place of eight Howe truss spans of 150 feet each over the Sandusky at Fremont, O.
President Inella tells the friends of the Chesapeake & Ohio road in the East that the bridge over the Ohio river at Cincinnati will be completed, and their track laid into the Grand Central Station, Cincinnati, by Jan. 1, 1889. One span of the bridge will be 550 feet in length and two spans 400 feet each.

The immigration commission of New York has notified the trunk lines that they must each have a representative of their branch at Castle Garden. The New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Erie have appointed C. F. Dean, former joint agent, as their representative. The Lackawanna will appoint an independent agent.
Chairman Daniels, of the passenger department of the Central Traffic Association, has notified the general passenger agents of the roads in the association that they have adopted the plan of the Chicago & Grand Trunk road, and the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee have again cast in their lot with the Central Traffic Association. Another effort is to be made to bridge the Ohio, Indiana & Western into the association.

The Pennsylvania and the Vandallia decline to close their office on South Illinois street, and as a consequence the Bee-line people will not close theirs. The Pennsylvania people claim that they are obliged to keep the office open to protect them against the scalpers, and that at the same time it is a paying institution. In the year 1887 nearly \$2,000 worth of more tickets were sold than in 1886, and this year the record of 1887 promises to be beaten.

At the coming annual convention of the train-dispatchers a new feature will be introduced, that of a mutual benefit branch of the organization, to be known as the American Train-dispatchers' Mutual Benefit Association. Any member not over fifty years old can become a member of it and share its benefits, providing he is in good health and free from disability. The admission fee is to be \$2.50, and an assessment of \$1 is to be levied on all members on the death of a member and proof of death.

District Passenger Agent Fisher, of the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton line, on Monday dropped down on the Evansville & Terre Haute road and gathered in between Evansville and Terre Haute about nine hundred and thirty-five Pythias who will take the Vandallia and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Indianapolis roads to attend the coming annual convention to be held in Cincinnati. I. D. Baldwin, of the Erie road, has secured several thousand in the Northwest and northern Michigan who will come over the L. N. & C. to Indianapolis, and then go over the Erie to Cincinnati.

Western roads have been notified that the Philadelphia & Reading road, after a sixty-day trial, has abandoned the per diem charge for cars and will return to the old mileage system. Business was strained on the other roads the per diem system is proving quite satisfactory. Statistics furnished by the West Shore show that in February on that road the cars of the twenty-eight roads that have adopted the per diem car charge had an average mileage per car per day of 24.5, against 20.6 last year, when the old mileage system prevailed. The period of detention has fallen from 3.5 days to 2.7 days. These figures show that the car movement is accelerated under the new plan about 20 per cent; in other words, that four cars will now do the work of five.

Miscellaneous Notes.
The London & Northwestern road, of Ennland, gives employment to 55,217 persons.
The Algona branch of the Union Pacific road will be opened for business on the 15th of this month.
The Wason car manufactory at Springfield, Mass., is building a palace car for King Louis of Portugal, to cost \$18,000.

The friendly alliance that has been formed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe and the Missouri Pacific, will prevent any further disruption of rates.
A lively passenger war, east from San Francisco, is now in progress, and out of 33 to 35 are made on each ticket. Thus far the Union Pacific has taken no part in the fight.
The Pullman Company has \$3,000,000 of good securities drawing interest, besides the large surplus reported in the treasury. An official of the company states that their earnings from sleeping cars are again large.

The Erie railway has leased the right of way of the unfinished New Castle & Shenango Valley railroad, and will push the line to completion. By its arrangement the Erie will have a road from New York to Pittsburgh by July 1.
Of the 1,112 miles of main line owned by the Chicago & Alton, 1,010 of it is laid with heavy steel rail. The road is now being ballasted with

broken stone and cinders. The ballasting with stone cost \$1,953 a mile, with cinders \$1,000 a mile.

An interesting bit of history concerning the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe was developed during the recent Pacific railroad investigation. Mr. Holmes, the attorney for the Kansas Pacific road, stated that, in 1877, the Kansas Pacific company was annoyed somewhat by the competition of the Santa Fe road, and at that time its clients seriously considered the advisability of acquiring the control of this new rival. He stated that this result could have been accomplished with an outlay of \$40,000, but in eleven years the A. T. & S. F. had expanded from an insignificant line into the largest railroad system in the world.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal.
In your summary of the different gas wells in the State in your issue of yesterday, you left Knightstown entirely out of the list. This is one of the best gas towns in the State. We have six splendid wells and an abundance of gas for all purposes. The mains were laid through the streets last fall and every house in town has been using it for lighting and heating purposes all winter. The beautiful and picturesque location of Knightstown, surrounded as it is by great natural resources, with an abundance of natural gas for any purpose, its low taxes, its fine graded schools and refined and intelligent society, makes it a very desirable location for all kinds of manufacturing establishments for which superior and advantageous inducements are offered.
KNIGHTSTOWN, May 8. W. K. WAGNER.

A National Election Law.
To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
Election abuses are reported under the various State regulations. A peaceful reform is preferable to mere seditious agitation. While two score systems of casting, counting and returning prevail, a change made by citizens of one State against the election methods of another State is met with the query, "What are you going to do about it?" A national wrong should have a remedy by due course of a national law. The confederates deny to Congress implied powers, but the power to make or alter the means of securing a free vote and fair count is express. (Article I, Section 4.) This power may be exercised at any time and to any extent. (100 U. S. Rep. 371.) A person at all times, in our platform to this effect, touching the election of Congressmen and presidential electors.
"We favor the passage by Congress of a general law to uniform election law under the provisions of the national Constitution, securing to every one entitled to the elective franchise, 'a free vote and a fair count.'"
If such a law was passed the equity of its provisions could be fairly discussed without the odium of local comparison. S. P. THOMPSON.
RENNELSALA, May 6, 1888.

The Indiana Gas Towns and Wells.
To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
I notice an article in this morning's Journal entitled "The State's Great Wealth," in which reference is made to the production of natural gas. A list is given of a few of the gas towns with the number of wells and the total capacity. Now, as I am in a measure responsible for the figures given by Prof. Collett, and as great injustice has been done to the natural gas towns and the whole State, in fact, I desire to say that the figures given are not reliable, with possibly a few exceptions. The data was obtained by Prof. Collett for another purpose than publication, and at a time and under circumstances that rendered it impossible for me to give exact data. He was repeatedly informed that the estimates given were not even approximately correct. With a knowledge of all the circumstances he publishes this gross work list as a result of his own examination. Had it been the result of his own investigation I should have had nothing to say, but as he can throw the responsibility upon my shoulders I deem it only justice to myself to make the above statement. The figures were not intended for publication, and if used for the purpose for which they were procured could have done no harm, for if published at all they would have been corrected by my complete report now on file with the United States Geological Survey at Washington. I repeatedly declined to give estimates of the capacity of the wells as I have no means of knowing anything reliable. Owing to the friendship existing between us I could not well refuse to give him a rough estimate when informed of the purpose for which they were intended, but repeatedly informed him that they were only guess work. The Sheridan and Fisher's Station wells he is responsible for. I suggested that he could procure some exact data from the Trust company, the Brown, Ripple company and the Capital City company, but no effort seems to have been made to secure such data for the list as published is secure the same as when seen by me. My towns having been omitted from his list. If Prof. Collett will vouch for the accuracy of the figures given then I will have nothing to say. I have from time to time given lists of the gas wells for publication, but in all cases I have endeavored to give figures as nearly exact as possible. Many towns have been omitted from his list, some having very large as any of the towns named. If the list had been accurate in any other manner I should have made no criticism, however much it may be in error, but under the circumstances I feel it to myself demands the above statement.
MUNCIE, May 7. A. J. PHINNEY.

Italian Rule or Home Rule—Which?
To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:
The recent action of the Sovereign Pontiff in officially condemning the "Plan of Campaign," and other expedients found necessary to be resorted to by the people of Ireland to meet the methods of their oppressors, has called forth much comment from all quarters. Unhappily it is not the first time that the heads of the Catholic Church have thought proper to record themselves against the just aims and aspirations of the Irish people for better government, and in the interest of their centuries old foe. The policy of the papal hierarchy, of choice, and their belief, and their nature, and their degradation of millions of the poor and faithful of Ireland. The writer, however, believes that the time has long since gone by when the impertinent message from Rome would turn that people aside from the peaceful path to freedom they have been so long and so steadily pursuing. They present a firm and unyielding front to themselves, for the recovery of their long-lost place among the nations, a united people as if with one voice peacefully pleading in the great court of right and reason for the restoration of the affairs of their own land. By the simple force of the fairness and justice of their claims they have won to their aid the people of Scotland and Wales, and even a front of those of England, recovery of their long-lost place among the nations, a united people as if with one voice peacefully pleading in the great court of right and reason for the restoration of the affairs of their own land. By the simple force of the fairness and justice of their claims they have won to their aid the people of Scotland and Wales, and even a front of those of England, recovery of their long-lost place among the nations, a united people as if with one voice peacefully pleading in the great court of right and reason for the restoration of the affairs of their own land. 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